

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or Revocation)	
)	
of the Educator Certificate of)	CONSENT ORDER OF
)	
Amy L. Pizio,)	SUSPENSION
)	
Certificate 225264)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 14, 2007. On December 28, 2006, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent notice to Amy L. Pizio of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate 225265 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Ms. Pizio requested a hearing through legal counsel on January 5, 2007, but subsequently agreed to waive her right to a hearing and to accept a period of suspension of her certificate. After considering the information presented by the Department, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Pizio's certificate under the agreed-upon terms as outlined in this Consent Order of Suspension.

Amy L.
Pizio

Initial Here

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Pizio holds a professional educator certificate and has been employed by Dillon County School District Three (District) since 2003, assigned to Latta Middle/High School (School) as a dance teacher. She resigned from her employment with the District, effective November 13, 2006. Her resignation followed an investigation into allegations that she endangered the health and welfare of her students on September 22, 2006, by requiring them to walk laps around the school track as a disciplinary measure. As a result, a number of students had to be seen by the School nurse.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2006). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). After considering the information presented by the Department, the State Board concludes that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Amy L. Pizio on the grounds of unprofessional conduct for a period of nine months, commencing retroactively on November 13, 2006, through August 12, 2007, on the condition that Ms. Pizio complete an academic or professional development course in classroom management and/or student discipline techniques. If Ms. Pizio wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the suspension period, she must submit a written request to the Department’s Office of Educator Certification and provide evidence of the successful completion of the afore-mentioned course.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ John E. Tindal
John E. Tindal, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 14, 2007

I, Amy L. Pizio, S.C. Educator Certificate 225264, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval on February 14, 2007.

/S/ Amy L. Pizio
Amy L. Pizio

02/13/07
Date